

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Claims 20-24, 30-36, 41 and 44-47 are requested to be cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claims 25, 37-39 and 42 are currently being amended. New claims 48-50 have been added. Support for these amendments can be found at least in FIGs. 14-18 and the corresponding description. No new matter is being added.

This amendment adds, changes and deletes claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 25-29, 37-40, 42-43 and 48-50 are now pending in this application.

Information Disclosure Statement

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the references listed on the Form PTO/SB/08 submitted with the Information Disclosure Statement ("IDS") filed on July 27, 2007, after the date of the outstanding Office Action.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103

Claims 20, 22-28, 30-32, 34-40 and 42-47 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,222,157 to Yoneda et al. ("Yoneda"). Claims 21, 29, 33 and 41 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yoneda in view of well known prior art. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections for at least the following reasons.

Independent claim 25, as amended, recites:

An image forming apparatus comprising:

a control panel including a first touch screen menu including a trial printing button configured to, when user selected, initiate a trial preceding print of image data without an additional user selection, and a printing button configured to, when selected by a user, initiate printing of all pages of the image data in response to the selection of the printing button;

a printer that performs the trial preceding print by printing the image data in response to the selection of the trial printing button and performs the printing of all pages of the image data;

a controller that sets a desired specification including print density information according to operation of the control panel after the printer performs the trial preceding print, and deletes the image data after the printing of all pages;

wherein the printer is configured to print the image data according to the desired specification set by the controller.

Thus, the apparatus of claim 25 includes a control panel with a trial printing button, and the controller sets a desired specification including print density according to operation of the control panel after the printer performs the trial preceding print. This feature of claim 25 allows a user to examine the data printed for trial on sheets of paper to determine whether the data has been printed in the desired quality (such as the density of the printed data), and if the data has not been printed as desired, the user may adjust the setting until the desired quality is achieved.

Yoneda does not disclose an apparatus including a control panel with a trial printing button, where the controller sets a desired specification including print density according to operation of the control panel after the printer performs the trial preceding print, as recited in claim 25. The Office Action cites to FIG. 12 of Yoneda as disclosing a trial printing button and a print button. While the display of FIG. 12 shows a number of settings such as “NUMBER OF OUTPUT COPIES” and “OUTPUT PAPER SIZE,” the settings do not include print density. Further, while, the display of FIG. 11 of Yoneda includes “READ DENSITY,” the read density is the density at which a document is read, not the print density. Thus, Yoneda does not disclose an apparatus with all the features as recited in claim 25, and fails to anticipate that claim.

Independent claims 37 and 42 have been amended in a manner similar to the amendments made to claim 25, and are patentable for analogous reasons.

The dependent claims are patentable for at least the same reasons as their respective independent claims, as well as for further patentable features recited therein. For example, new claim 48 (with corresponding features in new claims 49 and 50) recites “wherein the control panel further comprises a touch screen menu including a density button configured to, when user selected, set the print density information.” Yoneda fails to disclose this feature.

Applicants believe that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check or credit card payment form being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicants hereby petition for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorize payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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